

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 755

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3542

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, MORG, MARR, US, KS

SUBJECT: COMBINED FORCES COMMAND PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

1. THE ROK MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND USFK ARE PLANNING A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT MAY 2 THAT A COMBINED FORCES COMMAND (CFC) WILL BE ESTABLISHED THIS FALL. ALTHOUGH A DATE FOR THE FORMATION OF THE COMMAND WILL NOT BE ANNOUNCED THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND PROPOSED MISSIONS WILL BE OUTLINED IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT.

2. THE ANNOUNCEMENT WILL SAY INTER ALIA THAT THE CFC WILL BE COMMANDED BY GENERAL JOHN W. VESSEY AND THE DEPUTY COMMANDER WILL BE LT. GENERAL YU BYONG-HYON, WHO WILL BE PROMOTED TO FOUR STAR RANK. ASSISTANT CHIEFS OF STAFF FOR PERSONNEL, INTELLIGENCE, COMMUNICATION AND ELECTRONICS AND ENGINEERING WILL BE KOREAN OFFICERS, AND THEIR DEPUTIES WILL BE US OFFICERS. OTHER ASSISTANT CHIEFS WILL BE US OFFICERS WITH ROK DEPUTIES. ANNOUNCEMENT WILL ALSO NOTE THAT SOME COMBINED STAFF ELEMENTS ARE ALREADY AT WORK AND THAT A GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE NEW CFC HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, ACROSS THE PARADE FIELD FROM THE PRESENT UNC HEADQUARTERS, WILL TAKE PLACE MAY 8. OCCUPANCY IS EXPECTED BY EARLY DECEMBER.

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3. THE ANNOUNCEMENT WILL STATE THAT THE GROUND AND AIR COMPONENT COMMANDS WILL BE UNDER US GENERAL OFFICERS, WHILE ASSIGNED NAVAL FORCES WILL BE UNDER THE COMMAND OF AN ADMIRAL FROM THE ROK NAVY. IN EACH COMPONENT COMMAND, THE DEPUTY CHIEF WILL BE FROM THE OTHER ALLY. THE PRESENT UNC WILL REMAIN A SEPARATE MILITARY ORAGNIZATION. THE CFC WILL RESPOND TO CINCUNC

ARMISTACE DIRECTIVES TO PROVIDE WHATEVER FORCES ARE
REQUIRED TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE ARMISTACE.

4. ROK PRESS APRIL 22 CARRIED WASHINGTON DATELINED
STORIES QUOTING A "SENIOR DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL"
WHICH CONTAINED THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE PLANNED
ANNOUNCEMENT OUTLINED ABOVE. THE NEW CFC DEPUTY
COMMANDER-DESIGNATE, GENERAL YU BYUNG-HYON, HAS BEEN PUT IN
CHARGE OF ORGANIZING THE CFC FOR THE ROK SIDE. HE
APPEARS TO BE PUTTING TOGETHER AN IMPRESSIVE STRUCTURE
WHICH MAY WELL OPERATE ON THE ROK SIDE WITH SUBSTANTIAL
FREEDOM FROM ROK JCS INFLUENCE.
SNEIDER

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